

(c) the funds made available to the region for the purpose; and

(d) the funds out of total allocation remained unutilised?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The areas which fulfil the eligibility criteria of having less than 30% arable area under assured means of irrigation in a development block have been taken up under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) in Uttarkhand region. Accordingly, the Project is being implemented in 70 micro-watersheds in all many blocks in eight districts of the region.

(c) and (d). An amount of Rs. 2033.63 lakh has been made available under the project to this region out of which Rs. 469.84 lakhs is yet to be utilised.

[English]

Functioning of Super Bazar

3705. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the assessment and review of the functioning of the Super Bazar were done by the Government last and the advice tendered to the Super Bazar;

(b) whether such advice was also tendered in the past;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the shortcomings and irregularities which came to the notice of the Government about the functioning of the Super Bazar during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e). Super Bazar is an autonomous cooperative society having its own Board of Directors who review its working.

Robbery in Punjab National Bank

3706. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Police investigated the robbery in the Punjab National Bank branch in New Delhi South Extension Area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). A case of burglary in New Delhi South Extension - Part I Branch of Punjab National Bank was registered

by the Delhi Police on 2nd December, 1996. The investigation conducted into the matter revealed that the roof of the strong room had been broken in order to gain entry and gas cutters had been used to open several lockers. The finger print experts accompanying the investigating team were able to lift 11 chance prints from the spot. However, the persons who had hired the broken lockers have not so far intimated the details of articles stolen from their respective lockers.

Infiltration from Arab Countries

3707. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expelled workers of various countries working in the Arab countries have been reaching at the Indian Coasts by the sea route;

(b) if so, whether the Government have established any Security system to check the infiltration of these persons;

(c) if so, the number of foreign nationals settled in India during the last three years; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, instance has come to our notice in which workers of other countries working in Saudi Arabia or other Gulf Countries expelled from there have reached Indian Coast by sea. However, from time to time, Indians living abroad without valid travel documents and visas have been expelled from Gulf Countries. Following declaration of an Amnesty Scheme by the UAE Government, Indians who arrived in India during the period September 10 to December, 10, 1996 is approximately 60,000; most of them travelled back by air, though some returned by sea. All returnees had valid Indian travel documents i.e. they came on Emergency Certificates issued by Indian Mission at UAE after following due procedures and they were given entry by Immigration Check Post authorities only after verifying their travel documents including Emergency Certificates/passports.

(b) This Ministry has been sensitising from time to time the concerned agencies including State Governments and UTs to check infiltration by foreign nationals and to deport them in appropriate cases.

(c) and (d). In view of what has been stated in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the question and necessity of these "Does not arise".

Research and Development in Pharmaceutical Companies

3708. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Pharmaceutical companies

are likely to face a bleak plight given the pathetic levels of investments in the Research and Development while their international counterparts are merging together in order to grow in size with the prime objective of saving on the research and development costs and increasing their range of products;

(b) if so, the reasons for the Indian Pharmaceutical companies lacking the required infrastructural facilities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to direct these companies to seriously take up the original research particularly when these are likely to undergo a major setback in 2010 A.D. when the Government will enforce the Patent Act on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). The mega mergers taking place in pharmaceutical companies abroad, the resources available to such companies and their emphasis on research and development will pose challenges to pharmaceutical companies in India.

In the face of these challenges, Indian pharmaceutical companies would have to shift from process development to more original research and development. While this will have to emanate primarily from the companies themselves, incentives for R and D, provision of state-of-art, infrastructural facilities from CSIR laboratories and training of R and D oriented scientists at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are some of the steps taken by the Government to prepare the pharmaceutical industry for the challenges ahead.

[Translation]

IDPL

3709. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited was revived during April, 1992 by BIFR after studying the report of the IDBI;

(b) whether Government are aware that all the five major plants of IDPL are on a complete standstill;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the arrears of salaries of the employees are yet payable from 1988;

(e) if so, the total amount thereof and time bound programme to pay the arrears, if any;

(f) whether the wages for October, 1996 are yet to be paid;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time bound programme to pay the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). A revival package formulated by IDPL management was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 10.2.1994 in terms of Section 17 (2) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Consequent upon the failure of IDPL to reach the targetted levels of production and sales in 1994-95, the BIFR reviewed the position and appointed IDBI, Bombay as the Operating Agency (O.A.) for techno-economic viability study and for suggesting long-term rehabilitation measures for IDPL. The report of the Operating Agency is awaited. IDPL has been facing severe constraints of Working Capital and other finances. As a result, the operations in its plants have come to a close except in the Madras unit which is running on a nominal basis.

(d) and (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) to (h). IDPL has since paid the wages and salaries for the month of October, 1996 to its workers and employees.

[English]

Smuggling of Cattle

3710. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cattle smuggling is still continuing from Bihar to Bangladesh due to infrastructural bottlenecks and administrative indifferences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cattle smuggling to Bangladesh was shown on BBC;

(d) whether high level meeting with Indo-Nepal officials held in June, '95 achieved its target of stopping smuggling of the cattle;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps taken to check the illegal activities on borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Bihar has no border with Bangladesh. However, as per available reports, the cattle are brought to West Bengal from Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for smuggling across the border.

(c) As per available information, there appears to be no reference to cattle smuggling to Bangladesh on BBC.